

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 03077 230647Z

13

ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11 IGA-02 RSR-01 /096 W

----- 026637

R 230555Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4440

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3077

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, SA, MASS

SUBJ: ANNUAL FOREIGN ASSISTANCE REPORT

REF: STATE 143258

1. EMBASSY STRONGLY SUPPORTS DEPT'S PLAN TO SUBMIT REPORT FOR SAUDI ARABIA (AMONG OTHER MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES) IN FORM OF CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX. BELIEVE A GOOD CASE COULD BE MADE THAT TO ANTAGONIZE ONE OF USG'S BEST AND MOST IMPORTANT FRIENDS IN ARAB WORLD BY PUBLICLY DIVULGING SAG'S DEFENSE PURCHASES COULD BE "DETRIMENTAL TO THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES."

2. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BY USG OF SAUDI PURCHASES OF DEFENSE-RELATED EQUIPMENT, PARTICULARLY COMBAT EQUIPMENT, WOULD IRRITATE AND ALARM SAG. SAUDIS, AS DEPT WELL AWARE, ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THREAT POSED BY RADICALS ON PERIPHERY OF PENINSULA AND IN IRAQ; THEY WOULD REGARD SUCH DISCLOSURES AS REVEALING TO THEIR RADICAL ENEMIES IMPORTANT INFO AS TO TRENDS AND CAPABILITIES OF SAUDI ARMED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JIDDA 03077 230647Z

FORCES. THEY WOULD STRONGLY MAINTAIN THAT IF ARMS

ACQUISITIONS WERE TO BE DISCLOSED, THE DECISION SHOULD BE MADE BY THEM, OR AT LEAST HAVE THEIR CONCURRENCE. (GIVEN THEIR EXTREME SENSITIVITY RE MILITARY DATA, HOWEVER, WE DOUBT THEY WOULD CONCUR IN REQUEST TO MAKE PUBLIC EVEN INNOCUOUS-SEEMING DEFENSE PURCHASES.)

3. OUR COMPETITIVE SALES POSITON, MOREOVER, VIS-A-VIS BRITISH AND FRENCH OFFERS, WOULD NOT BE ASSISTED BY ANY DISCLOSURES.
THACHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS THACHER
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Film Number: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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30 JUN 2005

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